COW-POX AND SMALL-POX.

To the Editor.—Sir: I have just perused in your Journal a paper read by Mr. Brooke at the Westminster Medical Society upon the coexistence of variola and vaccinia. An instance of the same kind to which Mr. B. there refers occurred some years since in my own practice, which I reported in your publication (*vide LANCET*, vol. 2nd, 1837-38), which seemed worth recording, as exhibiting the fallacy of the universal applicability of the Harveian theory, that no two inflammations can simultaneously exist, and as at the same time convincing us that we must not permit our researches into the interesting subject of vaccination to terminate with Jenner's splendid discovery.

While alluding to vaccination (which I have ever regarded as an almost certain preventive of small-pox despite the anomaly just referred to), I cannot refrain from humbly expressing my decided conviction of the necessity of having this important little operation *renewed* every seven years; not only from my own experience, but from that of others, I am led to believe that the occurrence of variola under such circumstances is extremely rare, and when it does take place the symptoms are always greatly modified. On the contrary, when this has been neglected, I have too frequently observed the disease make its appearance (the vaccine virus having been overcome by the lapse of time and the powers of the constitution), and assume its most dangerous and disgusting character.

I would suggest that our vaccine boards and union medical officers should be directed to revaccinate all parties applying to them who have not had the operation performed for the period alluded to. Might not some clause to this effect be advantageously introduced into the Vaccination Act? I am well convinced that such a regulation would most materially tend towards the ultimate extermination of a loathsome disease. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A. B. MADDOCK, M.D.

Judd-street, Brunswick-square,
Feb. 2, 1843.

* * The "Vaccination Act" forbids the inoculation of small-pox, but unless vaccination were made compulsory on all individuals (which it is not), no clause in any Bill directing revaccinations could be of any use. The parties might refuse to be revaccinated. The only measure of legislation relating to the subject would be one directing the payment of surgeons for repeating the operation, whenever it chanced to be performed a second time.

No. 1015.

STRANGULATION IN THE BIRTH.

(*For THE LANCET.*)

MRS. AGNES SMITH, aged 30, of a healthy, stiff-made figure, had a premature labour at the sixth month, on the 14th September, 1841; the child was still-born, and had been dead for some weeks. On the 20th of September, 1842, she was again delivered of a full-grown female child, after a labour of fifteen hours. The pains were neither frequent nor severe; the os uteri was thick and dilated slowly. Latterly, the head becoming impacted in the outlet of the pelvis (which was rather narrow anteriorly), required to be relieved with the forceps. When the head was born the child breathed twice, and cried once distinctly, though feebly; during the next three or four pains no progress was gained, although forcible traction was made; indeed, each pain, instead of furthering the labour, rather drew back the head, the face becoming rapidly black and tumid. On inserting the finger the thickened os uteri was found grasping the throat tightly as a ligature, and arresting the flow of blood in the jugular veins. A few more pains served to extricate the child, which was quite dead, strangled by the spasmodic contraction of the os uteri around the neck, after the birth of the head. There were two distinct black rings, one at the top, the other at the root, of the neck, corresponding exactly with parts which the os uteri had successively grasped and rested on. The right shoulder, from the apex to the lower ring on the neck, was ecchymosed. The left shoulder was nearly in a similar condition, showing the strong spasmodic contraction of the mouth of the womb, and the force necessary to overcome it.

W. HENDERSON, M.D.

Corstorphine, Edinburgh, Feb. 2, 1843.

CROTON OIL FOR THE CURE OF HOARSENESS.

THE hoarseness proceeding from laryngeal and tracheal inflammation, as well as that of an idiopathic kind caused by long speaking or singing, or that, again, which supervenes during fevers of a typhoid type, has been treated successfully by the external application of croton oil. Dr. Trusen, of Posen, whose experiments and observations have already been often noticed in our pages, employs friction with from five to ten drops of the oil over the larynx. But he takes care to extend the friction over only a small area, as the pustular eruption it causes has a great tendency to spread, particularly in persons with an irritable spine, for whom it ought to be used mixed with olive oil. The salutary effect of the remedy is first announced by an increase of expectoration. The croton oil thus applied exerts no laxative effect on the bowels.—*Hufeland's Journal*.

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